The Central Social Welfare Board proposes to have at least 2 Family Counselling Centres for Women in all districts by the end of Eleventh Plan. 60 new Family Counselling Centres will be opened during 2007-08.

Inter-country adoption rules

2903. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to relax the rules governing inter-country adoption to make it simpler for foreigners to provide new homes to Indian children;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan of Government to control exploitation of such adopted children by NRIs and others?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to simplify the adoption process for everyone, including foreigners, the existing Guidelines for adoption have been reviewed based on suggestions received, for appropriate consideration.

(c) The Guidelines for adoption include mechanisms to control exploitation of adopted children by NRIs and others.

Malnutrition among children

2904. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of children suffering from malnutrition in the country;

(b) how far the position has worsened since census of 2001;

(c) whether it is a fact that low birth weight is high in the country in comparison to other South Asian countries on the basis of human development report;

(d) whether the situation is improving from year-to-year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) As per National Family Health Survey (NFHS) - 3 (2005-06), conducted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 45.9% children are suffering from malnutrition in the country.

(b) After the census of 2001, only National Family Health Survey - 3 has been conducted in year 2005-06. However, as per NFHS, the extent of malnutrition among children declined from 52% in 1992-93 to 45.9% in 2005-06.

(c) to (e) As per the Human Development Report, 2006 the prevalence of low birth weight in India is 30% which is higher in comparison to other South Asian Countries except Bangladesh attached herewith as a Statement (*See* below). There is no nationally representative survey incorporating weight at birth.